

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the last paragraph of page 6 continued on page 7 with the following paragraph.

After storage of the packet signatures 52 in the template 34, the packet classifier 30 then begins generating packet signatures for the received data frames having unknown frame data values in step 66. The template translator 42 controls the hash generator 44 by selectively enabling and disabling the hash generator 44 based on the location offset values 36a and the hash action values 36b. The comparator 46 ~~than~~ then simultaneously compares the generated packet signature for the received data frame with the stored packet signatures 52 in step 68, and outputs a match signal in step 70 if a match is detected between the packet signature for the received data packet and one of the stored packet signatures 52. The match signal can then be used by the switching fabric 25 to execute the appropriate switching decision.
